

Environmental Justice

Comments

L-0054/015

Finally, USDOE failed to address environmental injustices associated with the proposed action, which disproportionately impacts the culture of the Yakama Nation's people and their subsistence life-way. No other population is as severely impacted as Native Americans by this proposed action.

Response

Environmental justice is concerned with assessment of disproportionate distribution of adverse impacts of an action among minority and low-income populations that is substantially greater than that experienced by the rest of the population. Adverse impacts are defined as negative changes to the existing conditions in the natural environment (for example, land, air, water, wildlife, vegetation) or in the human environment (for example, employment, health, land use). Executive Order 12898 further directed federal agencies to consider effects to "populations with differential patterns of subsistence consumption of fish and wildlife". (DOE 1997a).

The results of the environmental justice analysis are presented in Volume I Section 5.13. Cultural impacts are presented in Volume I Section 5.7 and Volume II Appendix K. Ecological impacts are presented in Volume I Section 5.5 and Volume II Appendix I. Aesthetic and scenic resources are presented in Volume I Section 5.12. Cumulative impacts are presented in Volume I Section 5.14. Human health impacts are presented in Volume I Section 5.11 and Volume II Appendix F.